

AGENDA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Location: City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Third Floor, Council Chambers
Time: 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call	7:00 PM
2. Approval of minutes for February 23, 2011	Discussion / Action (7:05 PM)
3. Oral Communications – Non-Agenized Items	Discussion (7:08 PM)
4. New Business	
4A. Presentation of Quarterly Report on Activities Related to Transportation Policies and Plans <i>Outcome: Commission to provide comments.</i>	Discussion (7:15 PM)
4B. Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan Update / Transportation Expenditure Plan Development <i>Outcome: Commission members to complete the questionnaire.</i>	Discussion (7:30 PM)
5. Staff Communications	Information (7:55 PM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated AC Transit Announcements for Potential June and September 2011 Transit Service Changes• Future Meeting Agenda Items	
6. Announcements	Information (8:00 PM)
7. Adjournment	8:05 PM

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Transportation Commission Minutes

February 23, 2011

Kathy Moehring called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call

The roll was called and the following was recorded:

Members Present:

Philip Tribuzio
Thomas G. Bertken
Jesus Vargas
Kathy Moehring
Kirsten Zazo- absent

Staff Present:

Obaid Khan, Supervising Civil Engineer
Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator
Daraja Wagner, Administrative Assistant

2. Minutes

<p><i>Commissioner Moehring</i> moved approval of the minutes for the January 26, 2011 meeting. <i>Commissioner Bertken</i> seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.</p>

3. Oral Communications – Non-Agenda

None.

4. New Business

4A. Alameda Employee Survey Results

Staff Payne summarized the staff report.

Open public hearing.

Commissioner Moehring asked *Staff Payne* out of the surveys that were sent out, how many responses were received and also if she was satisfied with the results of the survey. *Moehring* also expressed her concern about if the respondents really represented enough commuter employees.

Staff Payne responded that she was satisfied with the results of the survey. *Payne* stated that according to Dowling Associates, who are the experts in surveying, the results were good and just about met their target of 1,000 responses.

Staff Khan responded that it was not a scientific survey, but it did capture the different work locations of main employment areas around the city like Towne Centre and Harbor Bay.

Staff Payne stated that she did have that information and invited people to come to the stakeholder meeting on March 10, 2011 for more information.

Commissioner Vargas asked if there would be any benefit to finding out what the youth thought. He stated that if youth were walking or taking the bus then they would have less of a dependency on their parents.

Staff Payne responded that they did capture some youth responses yet the focus was on employees, which tend to have an age cluster corresponding with the baby boomers.

Commissioner Bertken asked what the total employment in Alameda is. *Bertken* stated that he wanted to make sure that the survey got answers from the appropriate employees according to geographic area.

Staff Payne responded that the next step will be to look at the answers from the specific areas to see how the people responded and see what will best meet their needs. *Payne* stated that she would follow up with this topic at the next meeting.

Commissioner Bertken asked how the plan ultimately would be used. What will it address?

Staff Khan responded that the plan will be used to reduce single driver vehicles and also will create a list of strategies to help reduce traffic.

Commissioner Bertken stated that people who have cars available to drive are not going to want to stop using their cars especially since 95 percent of the people who work in Alameda receive free parking.

Staff Khan responded that a better alternative must be provided and that people must be able to see the advantages of it.

Commissioner Tribuzio asked if there was anything that asked people who commuted on bikes how often they commuted that way. *Tribuzio* stated that eventually people would return to their cars.

Staff Payne answered yes, that there was a question asking if they biked more than once a week.

Commissioner Vargas asked if *Staff Payne* could elaborate on why there were 29 comments under bike related to the Posey Tube.

Staff Payne responded that these comments were from bicyclists traveling between Oakland and Alameda on the west end of the city. The Posey Tube has a narrow path and buses only have two slots for bikes on the racks. The City will begin a shuttle between the College of Alameda and Laney College to address this issue starting this summer.

Close public hearing.

No action was taken.

4B. “Going Forward” Community Planning Strategy for Alameda Point

Staff Khan explained the “Going Forward” effort and assisted the Commission members in completing the transportation and access section of the workbook.

Open public hearing.

Commissioner Tribuzio stated that bicyclists want a bridge across the estuary and it would be very important for future planning. Due to the future building on Alameda Point, there will be more traffic. However, the bridge is a conflict with the relocation of the Coast Guard.

Jon Spangler – as a charter Transportation Member – stated that he has a problem with the zero sum ranking order. It is clear that if all ten elements with high density housing units are implemented then it will have a significant impact on traffic; however, if one is missing then the whole thing will go up in smoke. However, all ten elements can reduce Alameda’s carbon emissions. All the elements are critical. He also stated that he hoped that it would not exclude development to Alameda Point.

Jim Straelo stated that he valued the “additional comments” section the most. He liked that he could add additional comments. He found fault that it was not possible to rank others additional comments. He wants everyone to come up with comments that are outside the box like:

- Circulator Systems that would allow buses to go around Alameda Point and bring them to the buses on Webster Street
- More pedestrian walkways through the tubes
- Instead of one central hub, he liked the idea of having several neighborhood hubs spread throughout the city to match the housing that will be there

He also thought that it was not smart to not have parking for townhomes. Even if residents did not need it, their guests might. Jim restated to not just limit ideas to the workbook.

Commissioner Tribuzio responded that the design is to get people out of their cars. Building townhomes where people cannot park does not make sense due to the high prices for the homes and the fact that people have cars and will drive them. *Tribuzio* also stated that the ranking order did not make sense.

Staff Khan responded that he just wanted to encourage the community participation to see where priorities lie. *Khan* reassured them that all written comments will be taken in consideration and will not be ignored.

Commissioner Bertken agreed with Spangler that it is not consistent, and it is not good to have trade offs.

Commissioner Vargas asked that the youth be considered and wanted to make sure to accommodate skateboarders. Since the average age is growing higher, it is important to have ADA standards.

Commissioner Moehring stated that the intention is not to pick one and solve the problem, but to create alternatives.

Commissioner Bertken asked how will the trade offs be done.

Staff Khan gave an example that the BRT forum thought it was a good idea for the BRT to go to 12th Street BART but BRT to Fruitvale BART did not come up as a higher priority.

Commissioner Moehring stated that the City cannot develop it all at once. It is a matter of gauging the impact and figuring out where to start. *Moehring* stated that it all had to be done at some point.

Close public hearing.

5. Staff Communications

Request to Start Transportation Commission Meetings at 7:00 PM

Commissioner Vargas moved to recommend that the meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. *Commissioner Tribuzio* seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

511 SchoolPool RideMatch (<https://www.schoolpool.511.org>)

Staff Payne explained the new program.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

Staff Payne stated that future meeting agenda items for the March meeting look to be as follows:

Countywide Transportation Plan/Transportation Expenditure Plan
Quarterly Report
TSM/TDM Plan – Preliminary Alternative Strategies

6. Announcements

Jon Spangler stated that \$5,000 was in the budget for new bicycle parking. It would be an excellent use to install new bike racks. Spangler suggested that the staff and community take it into consideration.

Commissioner Moehring stated that Webster Street has more bike racks. With more awareness, more will come.

Jim Straehlo stated that some bike racks are preferred over other types depending on how many can be parked at a time.

7. Adjournment

8:45 PM

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
March 23, 2011
Item 4A

**Quarterly Report on Activities Related to
Transportation Policies and Plans**

BACKGROUND

Alameda Municipal Code (AMC) Section 2-8.1 states that the Transportation Commission “shall monitor, via quarterly staff reports, implementation of approved transportation plans and policies.” This report provides an update regarding activities during the quarter of January through March 2011.

DISCUSSION

The table below lists various work tasks completed or being worked on by staff relating to Transportation Plans from January through March 2011.

Plans	Recent/Upcoming Activities
Updated Bicycle Master Plan	<p>The City Council approved the Bicycle Plan Update on Tuesday, November 16, 2010. Public Works Department staff is in the process of addressing input received from BikeAlameda on the bicycle design guidelines. The Public Works Department was successful in receiving two new grants that help implement the Bicycle Plan as shown below:</p> <p>1. <i>Estuary Crossing Shuttle</i> - The shuttle will travel between the Cities of Alameda and Oakland stopping at the College of Alameda and Lake Merritt BART (near Laney College). The targeted shuttle users are bicyclists and students, faculty and staff from the College of Alameda and Laney College as well as the general public. The City plans to start the shuttle service in the summer. Air District money requested (for two year shuttle service) - \$386,715 with a local match of \$42,969.</p> <p>2. <i>Shoreline Drive/Westline Drive bike lanes</i> - This project will restripe Shoreline Drive and Westline Drive to install bike lanes, reduce travel lanes and provide enhanced parking. Federal money requested - \$416,400 with a local match of \$46,400.</p>
Long-Range Transit Plan Update	<p>Staff continues to work on the Federally Funded Alameda Point Transit and Access Plan and Implementation of the Shuttle Service Improvements project. During the last quarter, staff worked on refining the potential transit alignments from Alameda Point to BART. Staff will continue to seek funding to update the City’s Long Range Transit Plan.</p>
TSM/TDM Plan	<p>The Public Works Department in association with its consultant – Dowling Associates – is in the process of determining preliminary TSM/TDM measures that reduce the amount of commute travel by single-occupant autos. The preliminary TSM/TDM measures are being assessed by their potential effectiveness in reducing single-occupant auto use for commute trips based on specific needs of Alameda businesses, residents and employees.</p>

Plans	Recent/Upcoming Activities
Pedestrian Plan	The Transportation Commission reviewed the Draft Pedestrian Design Guidelines on August 25, 2010. Since that meeting, staff has received additional comments and is finalizing the guidelines as necessary. The guidelines will be incorporated into the Public Works Department. The two new grants stated above also are projects in the Pedestrian Plan, and will help make Alameda more pedestrian friendly.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS/FISCAL IMPACT

The City Council has approved the funding required for the above activities.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion purposes only.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

March 23, 2011

Item 4B

Discussion

Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan Update / Transportation Expenditure Plan Development

BACKGROUND

Alameda County Transportation Commission (CTC) is currently updating the Countywide Transportation Plan (CWTP) and developing the Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP). The CWTP lays out a strategy for meeting transportation needs for all users in Alameda County. This plan includes projects and other improvements for: new and existing freeways, local streets and roads, public transit (paratransit, buses, rails, ferries) and facilities and programs to support bicycling and walking. Projects are required to be in the CWTP to compete for funding on the regional, state and national levels.

The TEP identifies the funding priorities for an extension of the existing Transportation Sales Tax, known as Measure B. The TEP includes transportation infrastructure projects like roadway maintenance, bicycle, pedestrian, transit and paratransit improvements; and programs supporting biking, walking, transit and paratransit operations. The TEP will be submitted to the voters of Alameda County for approval. If the plan appears on the 2012 ballot, as anticipated, it will require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

To develop the Plans, Alameda CTC is working with a Steering Committee, a Community Advisory Working Group and a Technical Advisory Working Group. These committees include representatives from fifteen local jurisdictions, six transit operators, Caltrans District 4, the Port of Oakland, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and other community and agency stakeholders to identify and prioritize projects and programs. Alameda CTC also is leading two rounds of public workshops. The first round is occurring in February and March to better understand transportation needs and priorities. A follow-up round of workshops will be held in the Fall of 2011 to provide an opportunity for review and comment on the draft plan. As part of the first round of public workshops, the Alameda CTC is requesting feedback from individuals attending regularly scheduled local meetings such as the City of Alameda's Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION

Public Works Department staff will present a background of the CWTP/TEP update process, and then will request the Transportation Commission to hold a public discussion about countywide transportation needs, trade-offs and priorities. In preparation for the Transportation Commission meeting, staff is requesting that each Transportation Commission member complete a questionnaire in advance of the meeting (Attachment A).

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS/FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Complete the questionnaire and hold a public discussion to inform the Alameda CTC's planning process for transportation issues. Staff will collect all completed questionnaires at the end of the public discussion.

Attachment A:
Countywide Transportation Plan /
Transportation Expenditure Plan Questionnaire

Questionnaire

The Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan (CWTP) is a long-range policy document that guides transportation funding decisions for Alameda County's transportation system over a 25-year horizon. Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. *Your responses will help us identify Alameda County's current and future transportation needs and prioritize future improvements during this early stage of the process.*

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

1. What city or area of the county do you live in? _____
2. What city or area of the county do you commute to for work/school or other regular activities? _____
3. What mode of travel do you use the most (select one)
 - ☐ Walk
 - ☐ Bicycle
 - ☐ Take bus or shuttle
 - ☐ Drive alone
 - ☐ Carpool
 - ☐ BART
 - ☐ Other: _____

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Transportation planning is a complex balancing act that requires careful consideration of current and future County needs for a variety of transportation modes (driving, transit, walking and biking, and goods movement).

4. Please identify the top 3 categories of transportation improvements that you feel are most needed in Alameda County (select up to 3)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repairing potholes and smoothing the existing roadway | <input type="checkbox"/> Goods Movement/Freight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relieving street and highway congestion | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining existing transit system connections & reliability | <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expanding the transit services to new areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Programs, incl. Paratransit (for senior and disabled transport) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Providing incentives to drive less, especially when commuting to work or school | <input type="checkbox"/> Using technology, information and pricing policies to manage congestion |

Tell us if you have a specific project in mind: _____

TRANSPORTATION TRADE-OFFS

County transportation needs exceed the funding that is currently and likely to be available in the future. While all needs are important, please provide input on priorities by responding to the following trade-offs. Choose one for each.

5. The CWTP should prioritize:

- ☐ Maintaining streets, roads and highways **OR** ☐ Expanding transit services and reliability

Tell us if you have a specific project in mind: _____

6. The CWTP should prioritize:

- ☐ Expanding highway capacity and efficiency to reduce congestion **OR**
☐ Providing more alternatives to driving (walking, biking, transit, expanding educational/informational programs)

Tell us if you have a specific project in mind: _____

7. The CWTP should prioritize:

- ☐ Maintaining and operating existing transit services **OR** ☐ Improving goods movement and freight

Tell us if you have a specific project in mind: _____

8. The CWTP should prioritize:

- ☐ Improving transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities

OR

- ☐ Expanding bicycle and pedestrian improvements

If you have a specific location in mind, note it here _____

Alameda County is required by law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars by reducing the number of miles people drive.

9. What are the most effective ways to reduce the number of miles people drive in Alameda County? (Select 2)

- ☐ Programs that encourage and educate people to use alternatives to driving
☐ Building our cities so that you can walk or bike to more destinations
☐ Increasing transit services in areas that don't currently have high capacity transit
☐ Adding service to existing transit routes
☐ Reducing the cost of public transit
☐ Other _____

10. Priority Projects or Programs

Please use the space below to identify any additional priority transportation projects or programs you think should be included in the CWTP.

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS

Alameda is a very diverse County, geographically, ethnically and economically. Your answers to the questions below will help ensure that we get broad, representative participation in this process.

11. What is your race or ethnic identification? (select one or more)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | |

12. What is your household income level? (select one)

- ☐ \$0-\$25,000
☐ \$25,000-\$50,000
☐ \$50,000-\$75,000
☐ \$75,000-\$100,000
☐ Over \$100,000